

Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 6:00 PM

Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center

350 Division Street, Pawtucket RI 02860

Minutes

I Meeting will come to order

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

a Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Araujo-here

Also in attendance were Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Lee Rabbitt, Assistant

Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction And Technology

Assessment; Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial

Officer; Mr. Andrew Henneous, Legal Counsel; Mr. Jon Anderson

Legal Counsel for the Pawtucket School

Committee.

b Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II Celebration /Recognition

1. Recognition of Commended Schools

Mrs. DiCenso called Dr. Edna Coia, Principal, Francis J. Varieur Elementary School to the podium.

Mrs. DiCenso: I want to let everyone know we've made great strides and I want to honor our two (2) Commended Schools. I am proud to honor the excellence of Varieur Elementary School. I want to thank Dr.Coia. They work very hard for all of their students

The Chaiman presented a plaque to Dr. Coia.

Dr. Coia: I am so proud of the staff at the school and it is because of your support we have achieved this and we are returning this to you for all of your support. I thank you for all of your hard work and excellence and the teachers that love the students at our school.

The Chairman presented a plaque to Mrs. Fasteson.

Elizabeth Fasteson was called to the podium.

Mrs. DiCenso: Liz, I'd like to congratulate you on your second year Rhode Island Department of Education listed as second year in a row as a Commended School.

Mrs. Fasteson: I'm honored to be working with such a great staff. We have to give credit to all the staff. We started with fourteen students and Jackie Walsh would be very proud. We have students from all over the State and Massachusetts. It all has to do with great staff and support.

III Special Reports of Student Representatives

Charles E. Shea High School

Patience: Good evening, I'm Patience. We have a new mentors program where the seniors have been sent out to the freshmen to help out.

We have Voice of Shea. The sports teams are doing very well. The football team started the year with a win against Central Falls. The girls' soccer team had a game today and are probably finishing up about now. Also the tennis team has a game today. The cross country team in conjunction with the Tolman cross country team ran last Saturday from 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM to raise money for the elderly.

At Shea we did the ALS Challenge and challenged Tolman, Central Falls and Cumberland. Tolman and Cumberland have completed their challenge.

The Smiles Program has started at Shea. It's for students interested in Math and Science to help the environment. They are already preparing for competition in the spring.

Shea has a new Glee Club.

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William E. Tolman High School

Mr. Savastano, Principal: We will have two new students representing Tolman this year. One has been summoned to the game across the street (Pawsox) and one wasn't sure if he would be back in time from a field trip.

We were challenged by Shea to participate in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and raised close to \$800.00. The funds will be going to the family of a Tolman staff member who is struggling with health issues at this time.

We have scheduled our open house for September 24th from 6:00 PM

to 8:00 PM. All are welcome.

The Guidance Office received the Starfish Award. Ms. DiCenso knows being the head of guidance at one time, that this is a big accomplishment. This award recognizes schools that creates academic success plans for students through the help of the guidance counselors.

Our cross country team collaborated Saturday with Shea covering over 140 miles. Together we raised over \$6,000 for the Pawtucket Senior Center.

Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts

Rudi: Good evening, I'm Rudi and I am a theater major. We have a lot of music majors and they do great things with the assistance of Mr. Beauragard. One event is being held at the Biltmore on the 18th at 6:00 PM. It's called the First Works Gala.

On September 19 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM they will be performing at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet performing Progreso Latino. September 25th will be our open house from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

September 26th is open mike night and there will be all sorts of fun stuff going on.

We don't have sports, but we do have clubs:

- In Prov Club**
- Pages and Stages—it's a book club.**

October 2, the Rhode Island Attorney General is coming to JMW to speak on texting and driving.

IV Public Participation

Comments from the public are invited at this time. Citizens wishing to speak should sign in with the Committee Chair before speaking. The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on items raised by Public Comment, which are not already on the agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Don Gauvin: Mr. Gauvin spoke before the Committee in order to request a plaque to be hung in William E. Tolman High School on his sister's behalf. Mr. Gauvin's sister, Ms. Joan Shirley Gauvin Coppens was a former student at Pawtucket East High School and would like to honor her math teacher, Mr. Lewis Royal for his extraordinary effort while she attended Pawtucket East High School.

Mr. Gauvin congratulated Mr. Chris Savastano, Tolman Principal, for improving the scholastic test scores and also Mr. Savastano's Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Diane Drape for her assistance with his presentation this evening.

Mr. Gauvin acknowledged that back when his sister, Joan, graduated from high school, women were not encouraged to go to college, but instead focus on getting married and raising a family.

As a result of Mr. Royal and his dedication to his students, Ms. Joan Shirley Gauvin graduated from Wheaton College Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta kappa, Salutatorian along with many academic awards and furthering her education by receiving her Master's Degree at the University of Connecticut in Atomic and Nuclear Physics before getting a job, finding a man and starting a family. Ms. Joan Shirley Gauvin Coppens currently has a Master's Degree in Clinical Sociology from the University of Rhode Island.

Ms. Gauvin Coppens hopes that this plaque makes a few teachers as well as students pause and think of Mr. Lewis Royal and what he represents.

Mr. Savastano accepted the Mr. Lewis Royal plaque on behalf of all educators and commented that it is very, very rare you find out about how your students have done in the past. Mr. Savastano was a

former math teacher himself and accepted the plaque on behalf of all educators.

Nancy Iadaluca, Local 217: Good evening. I am the Vice President of the Local 217 and am here to talk about the lunch program. I am here speaking on behalf of ninety (90) dedicated workers. I want to clarify the position of the local 217. You have a difficult decision as to who to hire and administer your food service plan. We want to be sure that these hard workers are treated with respect, decent healthcare and normal hours. They are all taxpayers and they give back every day they come in.

Whomever you decide, whether it be the lowest bid, sometime cheaper is not always better, we hope someone does not try to put something over on you. They are committed to the students. Sodexo has been here a long time and this could be a transient change. We want to make sure the people of Pawtucket are protected.

V Executive Session

The Chairman commented that the Committee will recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5 (a) (2) (legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining) of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon the following:

1. Legal advice /potential litigation regarding food services contract

2. Seal Executive Session Minutes

Mr. Spooner moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Roll call

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes;
Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

Motion carries unanimously.

The Committee recessed to executive session at 6:52 PM to 7:30 PM.

VI Reconvene to open session

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, reconvened the open session at 7:40 PM.

a. Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Araujo-here

VII Report out vote(s) of executive session of 9/10/14, if applicable

The Clerk reported that the Committee unanimously voted to authorize Attorney Andrew Henneous to contact for purposes of retaining a law firm that has tax attorneys to get a legal opinion on the tax exempt bond issues surrounding the Food Service contract.

The Committee also unanimously voted to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session.

VIII Approval of previous meeting minutes

Mr. Tenreiro moved to accept and approve the previous meeting minutes of July 29, 2014 and August 14, 2014. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

IX Old Business

1. Discussion and Approval of Food Service Provider

Mr. Spooner moved to table Old Business, 1. Discussion and approval of Food Service Provider. Mr. Coughlin seconded.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-no; Ms. Cano-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Ms. Nordquist-no; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-no; Mr. Araujo-yes.

Motion to table passes—four in favor; three opposed—Ms. Bonollo, Ms. Nordquist and Mr. Tenreiro.

X Action Items

1. Approval of Administrative Appointment

Mrs. DiCenso: We have one administrative appointment this evening. It is a young man who interviewed last year and we were not able to steal him away from Cranston. His mother was a former teacher here and her name is Maria Perrotta. We are honored to recommend the appointment of Mr. Richard Perrotta to Slater.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the Administrative Appointment of Mr. Richard Perrotta to Slater Junior High School as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Certified Recalls

Mrs. DiCenso: We have two certified recalls this evening that we are recommending for approval. They are Kaitlyn Potts-English Teacher at Tolman High School and Kelly Barone—Computer Literacy (STEM) (.5) at Tolman High School.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the certified recalls as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso.

Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Certified Appointments

Mrs. DiCenso: We have a number of certified appointments we are recommending this evening so that we are compliant with the BEP, they are:

DPT/SP. ED. – Fallon Elementary

Alyssa Mello, 126 Naushon Road, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02861

Step 3

Sp. Ed. (severe/profound) – Tolman High School (1 yr. position)

Marilyn Nelson, 5 Bradley Street, Rumford, Rhode Island 02916

Step 10 w/masters +30

Grade 4 – Winters Elementary (1 yr. position)

Nathan Rebello, 15 Pommenville Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02861

Step 1

ESL/Resource – Slater Jr. High School

Kristen Marchetti, 161 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917

Step 1 pending verification

Applied for Emergency ESL & Middle Grades English

Kindergarten Teacher – Varieur Elementary (1 yr. position)

Jessica Lyons, 90 Ferris Avenue, Rumford, Rhode Island 02916

Step 1 w/masters

Math Teacher – Tolman High School (1 yr. position)

David Flaherty, 19 Walden Way, Cranston, Rhode Island 02921

Step 10 w/masters +30

Math Teacher – Tolman High School (1 yr. position)

Spencer Foote, 44 Metropolitan Drive, Providence, Rhode Island 02886

Step 1 w/masters +30 pending verification

Librarian – Baldwin Elementary

Alyssa Marzilli, 371 Angell Road, Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Step 1

Applied & received Emergency School Librarian Certification

Math Intervention – Slater Jr. High School

Andrea E. Blair, 286 Alabama Avenue, Apartment 1, Providence,

Rhode Island 02905

Step 1 pending verification

Mrs. DiCenso noted that Ms. Lyons is actually at Step 4 w/masters and Nathan Rebello should read Step 2.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the certified appointments as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

4. Approval of Non Certified Appointments

Mrs. DiCenso: We have three special education personal care attendants to recommend for non-certified appointments and they are:

**Sp. Ed. Building Assistant/Instructional Assistant/Personal Care Attendant - Curvin-McCabe Elementary
Cynthia Horton, 27 Mayfield Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02861**

**Sp. Ed. Building Assistant/Instructional Assistant/Personal Care Attendant - Jenks/JMW
Wayde Labossiere, 104 Byron Avenue, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02861**

Sp. Ed. Building Assistant/Instructional Assistant/Personal Care Attendant - Curtis Elementary

Danielle Cintron, 78 Waite Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the three special education personal care attendants as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried unanimously.

5. Approval of four (4) Job Descriptions

- Occupational Therapist**
- Special Education Diagnostic Prescriptive Teacher (DPT)**
- Teacher/Early Childhood/Pre-School (Special Needs)**
- Art Teacher**

Mrs. DiCenso: It was the practice of the former Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, to regularly revise and update job descriptions and tonight I am recommending the approval of four job descriptions. They are:

- Occupational Therapist**
- Special Education Diagnostic Prescriptive Teacher (DPT)**
- Teacher/Early Childhood/Pre-School (Special Needs)**
- Art Teacher**

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the four job descriptions as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried unanimously.

6. Approval to accept the first reading of the Student Athlete Insurance Policy

Attorney Anderson: The Pawtucket School Department has provided insurance for all participants in Interscholastic sports. In all districts, students are required to have insurance or purchase a policy. The policy we had cost \$8,700.00 and we got \$1,000,000.00 coverage. It now provides \$275,000.00 of coverage for \$8,700.00.

Students involved in sports have to have health insurance. The Superintendent told the Athletic Directors that students must have health insurance to participate in sports. We are working on a policy.

Mr. Coughlin: Purchase through us or them?

Ms. Devine: We can offer an insurance policy and they can get it on

their own.

Mr. Coughlin: The kids participating in football started in August.

Attorney Anderson: The insurance is paid based on premium. Car insurance is annual or semi-annual.

Mr. Spooner: Spring starts and a kid breaks their leg, what is our liability?

Attorney Anderson: We have liability in two ways. We have supervision and the other is the medical. It may not have been an issue because we pay for the policy. The company drastically decreased the coverage.

Mr. Spooner: If a child gets injured, we are responsible?

Attorney Anderson: No, because we are obtaining permission slips and if kids do not have waivers on file, they will not play.

Mrs. DiCenso: We will also make sure that the student eligibility list will be updated with the Interscholastic list.

Mr. Araujo: We don't have anything to approve as a first reading.

Attorney Anderson: We found this out on the first day of school. If you get any phone calls, the answer is get your paper work in. As the Superintendent indicated you will be taken off the Interscholastic League Roster.

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo commented that this item would be brought back before the committee in the near future.

There was no action taken on this agenda item.

XI Presentation/Discussion Items

1. Food Services Discussion—Rhode Island Department of Education

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, commented that an invitation was extended to the Rhode Island Department of Education, however, they did not respond and are not here this evening to discuss this matter.

Mr. Tenreiro: Point of order, the first item is a presentation/discussion regarding food services.

Attorney Anderson: This was advertised as a discussion with the Rhode Island Department of Education and they are not here.

Mr. Tenreiro: So we are unable to have a discussion regarding this matter?

Attorney Anderson: Under the Open Meetings' Act, it is very clear.

2. Lisa Fonseca, Parent and Community Coordinator—Community Engagement Overview

Ms. Fonseca: Thank you for allowing me to share my ideas for our school year.

Children and parents have a specific area in Central Administration to come and meet. The Pawtucket Library will be working with us as we plan to do a fall and spring session for parents and students on how to open a library card. We have a pinwheel garden to raise awareness of child abuse. It has been rewarding helping families at Cunningham and other schools at their open house. We want to increase parent involvement.

Ms. Cano: I'm very excited and thank you. I have received emails regarding a student who is a senior mentor and what is a good way to discuss this?

Mrs. DiCenso: Ms. Fonseca has been great and had a meeting to set up Senior Citizen with Students to help shovel snow. That would be a

great way to get the information to them. We will be at the Pawtucket Arts Festival.

3. Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Devine: In front of you this evening you have the monthly finances report. This is just July and it currently shows a \$250,000 loss because the budget numbers are based on two things:

The School Committee passed a budget in April which was then sent to the City Council who passes a budget slightly different and RIDE takes a snapshot at enrollment.

4. Monthly Vendor Expense Report

Ms. Devine: Each month I provide the Committee with a vendor report that shows expenses that have been paid. July is in two numbers at the end of the fiscal year because we are still paying bills in July from the previous fiscal year. So when I ran the first report it shows that we paid \$1M for the month of July. The second report shows that we paid \$2.5M which includes payments from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

August slows down a little bit but \$1.4M represents some that could be accrued. It shows what vendors have been paid.

XII Superintendent's Report

Mrs. DiCenso: I want to thank Dennis Rebelo and his team for the hard work done this summer. It was a very difficult push, but we did it. We have some residual work and then the next problem was regarding technology and I want to thank Hersh and his staff for their hard work.

The teachers are very patient. The lines are very long and we have balanced some of the numbers that are very solid. We met with Ron and his team. I think it went very well.

I am very pleased that RIDE gave us that extension while working on this. We have to still take care of our kids.

XIII Special Report of School Committee Members

Ms. Bonollo: I would like to introduce some of the new School Committee Members who will be joining some of us in January. Ms. Bonollo was reminded that the November election has not taken place and chose not to introduce anyone at this time.

Ms. Cano: I wanted to say that I am very excited for the new school year and joined the celebration with the Superintendent for teachers. It's important to encourage and acknowledge the hard work to educate our children. I want to wish you well and hope Pawtucket will

stay in the positive side. I will still be continuing to collaborate and I want to thank you for all of the support.

Mr. Coughlin: Congratulations to everyone who was elected. I want to especially congratulate the top vote getter who is sitting right next to me.

Ms. Nordquist: I was fortunate to attend the opening at the schools. I think there was a great energy. Mr. Rebelo gave an excellent speech. Going forward we have an awesome team. I personally could not be more pleased to be leaving with so many positive things happening.

Mr. Spooner: Congrats to Mr. Coughlin who is going on to the State House and to Council Woman Elect, Ms. Cano. The School Committee will miss you. It's not over yet, don't rest. Have a good night.

Mr. Tenreiro: Congratulations to all who prevailed in the primary.

Mr. Araujo: Congratulations to everyone who won elections. I want to thank those who came forward to vote. Thank you to the people who supported me. I want to echo what Ms. Cano and Ms. Nordquist said about school opening. It is great to see collaboration.

On September 15, 2014, thirty Superintendents will meet at the White House to highlight health and wellness.

**Congratulations Mrs. DiCenso who was chosen to go to this event.
We hope it is a great trip.**

Mrs. DiCenso: Just so you know, to save the district money, I will be leaving at 6:00 AM and returning at 9:00 PM the same day. Thank you for your support.

XIV Adjournment

Mr. Spooner moved to adjourn. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried unanimously.

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved by School Committee 10/14/14